

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01528 051448Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07 SAJ-01

/083 W

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R 051405Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9830

INFO AMCONSULATE ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROBE ON US INITIATIVE ON ME

REF: (A) CAIRO 507, (B) CAIRO 1417, (C) STATE 26979

(D) STATE 27375

1. SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KOLISNIKOV CALLED ON
EMBOFF FEB 5 TO PROBE FOR INFORMATION ON ANY US PLAN TO A ME
INITIATIVE.

2. KOLESNIKOV, WHO IS SKILLED NEITHER IN DIPLOMATIC INDIRECTION
NOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE, SEEMD TO HAVE A THEORY TO PROPOUND; I.E.,
THAT SINCE SADAT HAD TOLD JOURNALISTS WITH CANADIAN FONMIN
JANUARY 13 THAT EGYPT IS READY PROCEED TO GENEVA AND DISCUSS
PALESTINIAN QUESTION AFTER MEPC CONVENES (REF), AND SINCE
SADAT TOLD HAWADITH JANUARY 24 THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS MADE
IMPORTANT PLEDGE TO EGYPT VIS-A-VIS PALESTINIANS (REF B), IT
STANDS TO REASON THAT US AND GOE HAVE WORKED OUT SCENARIO
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01528 051448Z

TO CONVENE GENEVA, WHICH WOULD SOMEHOW OVERCOME PLO

PARTICIPATION PROBLEM. PERHAPS, HE SPECULATED, USG HAS AGREED TO PALESTINIANS NATIONAL STATE. KOLESNIKOV STRESSED AGAIN AND AGAIN MOSCOW BELIEVES MOMENTUM MUST BE MAINTAINED, PREFERABLY BY A RECONVENED MEPC, BUT THAT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IS TOUGH NUT TO CRACK. HE ALSO WONDERED IF, FOLLOWING RABIN VISIT, US AND GOI ARE CONSIDERING STEP ON WEST BANK.

3. DRAWING ON REFTELS C AND D, EMBOFF SAID USG AND GOI HAD NOT AGREED THAT KING HUSSEIN SHOULD BE APPROACHED ON SUBJECT GOI-GOJ NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT IN FACT NO CONCLUSION HAD BEEN REACHED DURING RABIN'S VISIT AS TO BEST WAY TO MOVE AHEAD. EMBOFF NOTED, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT FORD HAD EMPHASIZED ME STAGNATION IS UNACCEPTABLE TO USG.

4. EMBOFF SAID UNABLE ELUCIDATE PRESIDENT SADAT'S ENIGMATIC REMARK ABOUT PRESIDENT FOR'S PUTATIVE PLEDGE TO GOE CONCERNING PALESTINIANS, BUT KOLESNIKOV SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT USG'S WELL-KNOWN POSITION ON PALESTINIANS' LEGITIMATE INTERESTS REMAINS UNCHANGED. KOLESNIKOV INSISTED BOTH USSR AND SARG ARE EAGER TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENT BUT AGREED THERE IS NO PERCEPTIBLE GIVE IN SYRIAN POSITION ON MEPC.

5. ON BILATERAL USSR-GOE AFFAIRS, KOLESNIKOV CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOVIET SOURCES ABOUT RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET EMBASSY AND GOE OFFICIALS. HE SAID BILATERAL DEBT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE RESUMED BEFORE END OF YEAR IN MOSCOW, BUT DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET. HE PROFESSED INCREDULITY THAT US IS CONSIDERING, AS REPORTED IN CAIRO PAPERS, ONE BILLION DOLLARS ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT (750 MILLION PLUS 250 MILLION PL 480) WHICH, HE IMPLIED, EGYPTIANS COULD NOT POSSIBLY USE TO BEST ADVANTAGE. HE REMARKED THAT WEALTHY ARAB STATES ARE SO DISGUSTED WITH EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL PRACTICES THAT THEY HAVE REFUSED TO RECEIVE PRINCE SALIM. (COMMENT: NEWS THAT PENINSULAR ARABS BALKED AT SALIM'S TRIP TO PASS THE HAT IS ONE OF CAIRO'S WORST KEPT SECRETS.) EILTS

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